

planning NEWS







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Community Garden Initiative — Central Northeast Neighborhoods

By Dave Barber AICP

A groundbreaking ceremony to kick-off the Central Northeast Wichita 'community garden initiative' was held Saturday, April 22, 2006 at 1317 N. Madison. This is one of four community garden sites created this year that will provide selected produce (tomatoes, collard greens, mustard greens and cucumbers) that will be purchased and sold by the new Sav-A-Lot grocery store, opening July 26th at 13th Street and Grove. Area property owners have made their vacant lots available for this community garden initiative. The long-term goal is to establish a community garden on every vacant lot in Central Northeast Wichita that is too small for new residential home development.

Created through a partnership with the POWER CDC Nehemiah Project, the Central Northeast Council of Neighborhood Associations and the City's Housing and Community Services Department, the community garden initiative is intended to provide opportunities for inner-city youth to earn income, while learning important food raising and related life-skills.

For more information on this exciting initiative, contact James Arbertha, POWER CDC Nehemiah Project at 267-3036.

Honoring Ancestors and Building Neighborhood Pride

By Christy Askew

Teenagers spent their spring break painting a mural that represents the Day of the Dead, otherwise known as "Dia de los Muertos"—the first of several murals that will depict different aspects of Hispanic culture scattered throughout the El Pueblo Neighborhood. The mural was designed by Kathy Hull, with the Wichita State University's School of Art and Design and was funded through an

arts and cultural development grant awarded to the El Pueblo Neighborhood Association in 2005.

Much like Memorial Day, Dia de Los Muertos is a time for remembering friends, family and ancestors that have passed. The Atzec and Mayan ancestors passed down the belief that souls continue to exist after death, resting placidly in the land of the dead, and return home each year to visit their loved ones.

(continued on back page)



Dunbar Study Complete!

By Scott Knebel

On May 22, 2006, the "Dunbar Theater Feasibility Study Report" was presented to about 30 citizens from the McAdams and surrounding neighborhoods. The \$35,000 study was commissioned by the



City of Wichita to fulfill one of the implementation strategies of the "McAdams Neighborhood Revitalization Plan," which promotes the redevelopment of the 9th Street and Cleveland area in a manner that incorporates the Afri-

can American heritage of the neighborhood and utilizes the redevelopment of the Dunbar Theater as an anchor. The study was prepared by Hardlines Design Company of Columbus, Ohio; AMS Planning & Research of St. Louis, Missouri; and Professional Engineering Consultants of Wichita, Kansas.

According to the report, redevelopment of the Dunbar Theater would fill an unmet niche in the community for a performing arts venue with approximately 200 seats and would also provide the surrounding neighborhoods a much needed location to host meetings and receptions. The study estimates that the facility could be redeveloped at an approximate cost of \$1.5 million. In addition, in order to operate the facility, the Theater would require an annual operating subsidy of approximately \$215,000. The citizens that attended the meeting expressed support for the redevelopment of the Dunbar Theater and its surrounding area. The report will be presented to the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission on July 6, the Wichita City Council on August 1, and the Sedgwick County Board of Commissioners on August 2. To review the report go to http:// www.wichita.gov/CityOffices/Planning/AdvancedPlans or obtain a copy from the Metropolitan Area Planning Department. If you have any questions about the report, please contact Scott Knebel at 316-268-4456.

Improving the Neighborhood, One Block at a Time

By Scott Wadle

The North Central Neighborhood Association and the Bibleway Community of Faith Church will be partnering to hold a block-aide campaign. This unique event will not only clean-up the selected block, but will also work with property owners to repair, paint, and land-scape the properties. The event is expected to include more than 100 volunteers. Refreshments and food will be available. If you are interested in participating or would like to donate to the event, please contact the North Central Neighborhood Association president Mr. James Arbertha at (316) 267-3036.

Haysville: Seven Years of Recovery and Progress!

By Larry Powell

Since May 3, 1999, Haysville has been on a road to recovery after suffering from the effects of an F4 tornado that caused 6 deaths, 150 injuries, and over a \$140 million of damage to its residential and commercial property, including the heart of Haysville's downtown. The damage inflicted by the storm galvanized the community, creating a new course of community development that continues today.

The amount of commercial and residential construction in Haysville since 2000 clearly indicates the dramatic growth in Haysville over the past five years. The 2005 population of Haysville was 9,961, a 5-year annual growth rate of 3.22%. By 2020, Haysville is projected to have a population of almost 15,000.

The City has taken a very aggressive stance towards growing its business community. Since the year 2000, 24 retail stores and service centers have re-opened or built new facilities. The City of Haysville has also worked hard to encourage and assist businesses in an effort to retain, rebuild, and expand their product line where possible.

Several developers are currently working toward constructing mixed-use shopping areas containing new retail, service, professional and business park expansions. New opportunities for apartments and single-family housing have also been on the upswing. Also, the City assisted in the development of a new 59-unit Senior Housing Center and Club House in 2005, with 50% of the units occupied. Haysville anticipates full occupancy by late summer 2006.

For additional information contact Larry Powell at the Haysville Community Development Center at 316-529-5909.



The Bond-Sullivan House, located at 936 Back Bay Blvd., is among the fourteen nominations to the National Register of Historic Places. It is a Spanish Colonial Revival bungalow built in 1929.

RECENT LISTINGS TO HISTORIC REGISTERS

Wichita and Sedgwick County properties dominated the agenda of the Kansas Historic Sites Review Board on May 13, 2006 when fourteen structures were nominated to the National Register of Historic Places and one was listed on the Register of Kansas State Historic Places. Each of the properties qualified for listing because of individual architectural and/or historic significance.

Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization News

By Daniel Nguyen

For more information regarding the Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization contact Nancy Harvieux at 268.4301

What Is An MPO?

By Daniel Nguyen

An MPO, by definition, is a required regional Policy Body in urbanized areas with populations over 50,000. The Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WAMPO) is the designated MPO for our region and is responsible, in cooperation with the State of Kansas, for carrying out the regional metropolitan transportation planning process.

Transportation helps shape an area's economic health and quality of life. Not only does the transportation system provide for the mobility of people and goods, it also influences patterns of growth and economic activity through accessibility to land. Furthermore, the performance of this system affects public policy concerns regarding air quality, environmental resource consumption, social equity, "smart growth," economic development, safety, and security. Metropolitan transportation planning recognizes these critical links between transportation and other societal goals, and implements strategies that coincides with the region's vision for its future.

The WAMPO Policy Body is a twenty-member group consisting of nineteen local voting members and one State of Kansas ex-officio member. The Policy Body includes local elected officials, representatives of agencies that administer or operate different systems of transportation, and appropriate state officials.

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) provides technical support to the Policy Body, critiques documents, and coordinates transportation planning activities. In addition, Committee meetings provide a forum for discussion among TAC members and the public.

Key Documents:

The WAMPO produces several key documents including the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

The 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan was adopted in August 2005, which acts as WAMPO's fundamental document that states its strategies in which the region plans to invest in the transportation system. Plan elements include regional land use, housing, employment, potential projects for the future, public input process, preservation of existing transportation facilities, and fiscal constraints.

The Transportation Improvement Plan is a list of transportation improvements to be implemented over the next five years. All regionally significant transportation projects are required to be a part of the TIP, which could include projects such as planned highway widening, intersection improvements, transit studies, and any other improvements or additions to the transportation system in which federal money is used.

The Unified Planning Work Program is an annual document that is used as a tool to coordinate all transportation planning activities undertaken by the WAMPO for the upcoming calendar year. It reflects local priorities and contains budget information, funding sources, and other scheduled activities.

These programs work together to link policy makers, experts, and the general public to a comprehensive, continued, and coordinated planning process that develops and implements strategies for operating, managing, maintaining, and financing the area's transportation system and at the same time advancing the area's long-term goals.

Derby- Pedestrians and Cyclists on the Go

By Scott Wadle

The City of Derby was recently awarded funding from the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program to develop a 1.2-mile long pedestrian/bike path. The new segment will add to the City's existing 16 miles of pedestrian/bike paths and complete a six-mile loop within the City. Derby anticipates beginning construction in late 2008. When completed, the 10 foot wide path will

provide an important connection between three area schools, the Derby Recreation Center, and Garrett Park.

The Derby pedestrian/bike path project was one of five applications selected from the highly competitive funding process that included nearly 30 statewide applications under the pedestrian/bike path funding-category. The City was able to package a strong application by

developing a project that connected multiple destination points throughout the community. Derby also contributed 10 percent more than the minimum match requirements and agreed to conduct inspections (saving KDOT both time and money). In addition, the project

Honoring Ancestors (from page 1)

Dia de Los Muertos is a celebration, as opposed to a morbid occasion, that occurs on November 1st and 2nd each year. Families visit, clean, and decorate graves of loved ones, and many prepare an altar at their home or at the family gravesite. The mural depicts several aspects of the holiday for the setting is within a graveyard with laughing, dancing and singing skeletons-- representing the celebration of life. Photographs, musical instruments, flowers, candles and favorite foods of the loved ones are placed upon the altar—providing a special place to remember and to transform grief into acceptance. Families stay all night to visit, eat, drink and pray while they invite the spirits of the family to return for a few hours of laughter, tears and memories.

The youth from the neighborhood took pride in participating in this project, for the project not only celebrates a tradition of Hispanic culture and enriches the visual appearance of the neighborhood, it also provided the youth an opportunity to play an active role in improving their own neighborhood. The El Pueblo Neighborhood Association would like to thank all participants for their hard work in successfully completing the mural!

The mural may be viewed at 2604 N Arkansas, on a sidewall of the Betty's Too Laundromat, located across the street from the Evergreen Library. If you have any questions regarding the mural, please call Kathy Hull at 316-978-7722.

Derby (from page 3)

application demonstrated strong community involvement. The Derby Community Foundation has been one of the largest supporters of this project-- providing significant funding and assistance throughout this process.

Look for the completion of the path in late 2008. If you have any questions about this project, please contact the Derby City Engineer, Charlie Brown at 788-1519.

2006 Development Trends **Report Now Available**

ity throughout the Wichita-Sedgwick County Metropolitan Area in the 2006 Development Trends Report. It will be available on the MAPD website at http://wichita.gov/CityOffices/Planning/. Hard copies will be available at the MAPD office, located on the



2006 Development







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